



## Press Release

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### **Idaho Dry Edible Bean Production Up From Last Year**

Idaho's 2009 dry edible bean production is expected to total 1.98 million cwt, up 35 percent from last year's production of 1.46 million cwt, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Planted acreage of 100,000 and harvested acreage of 99,000 increased from last year's 80,000 acres planted and 79,000 acres harvested. Average yield is expected to be 2,000 pounds per acre, up 150 pounds from the previous year.

Idaho's potato production is expected to total 131 million cwt, unchanged from the November forecast and up 12 percent from last year's 116 million cwt. Planted acres of 320,000 and harvested acres of 319,000 are up 15,000 acres from 2008. Statewide, yield is 411 cwt (field-run basis), up 28 cwt from last year and 25 cwt more than the previous record of 386 achieved in 2006. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 500 cwt, decreased 40 cwt from 2008. Acreage for the 10 Southwest counties, at 19,000 acres planted and harvested, increased 4,000 acres from last year. Because of the acreage increase, total production in the area is up 17 percent from last year at 9.50 million cwt. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 405 cwt, compared to 375 cwt a year ago. This is the highest yield recorded for this area. Other area production from 300,000 harvested acres is expected to total 122 million cwt, 12 percent above last year's 108 million cwt.

Data from the Potato Objective Yield Survey shows that 23.2 percent of the Idaho 2009 crop russet potatoes were at least ten ounces, down from 28.1 percent that reached that size in 2008. Of the Russet potatoes in the 2009 sample, 76.6 percent met the 2.0 inch or 4 oz. minimum size and grade requirements for U.S. No. 1 potatoes, up from 70.3 percent last year. Processing grade and U.S. No. 2 potatoes, with a 1.5 inch minimum, accounted for 17.3 percent of the 2009 crop. The Potato Objective Yield Survey also shows that the Russet Burbank variety accounts for 56.2 percent of the potato acreage planted in Idaho. Ranger Russet accounts for 15.0 percent of plantings, and Russet Norkotah is 14.6 percent of the total. Premier Russet, at 2.8 percent, and Western Russet, at 2.3 percent, complete the top five varieties planted in Idaho for the 2009 crop. Other published varieties include Umatilla Russet, at 1.7 percent, Shepody, at 1.6 percent, Alturas, at 1.2 percent, and Frito-Lay varieties, at 1.0 percent.

Nationally, U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 25.2 million cwt for 2009, virtually unchanged from the October forecast but 1 percent below 2008. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.45 million acres, 1 percent above the October forecast but virtually unchanged from the previous year's harvested acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,737 pounds per acre, a decrease of 17 pounds from the October forecast and 31 pounds below the 2008 yield.

National production of fall potatoes for 2009 is forecast at 394 million cwt, up 1 percent from the November forecast and 4 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 919,400 acres, is slightly below the November forecast and 2008 estimate. The average yield, forecast at 429 cwt per acre, is up 3 cwt per acre from November's forecast and up 18 cwt per acre from last year. If realized, it will be the highest yield on record.

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